



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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6-12-03
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Re patent application of:

) Date: June 3, 2003

Thomas J. Foth et al.

) Attorney Docket No.: E-977

Serial No.: 09/474,326

) Customer No.: 00919

Filed: December 29, 1999

) Group Art Unit: 3621

Confirmation No.: 2120

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GROUP 3600

For: METHOD FOR FACILITATING A TRANSACTION BETWEEN A MERCHANT
AND A BUYER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b) exists.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with the following provisions, as identified below with marked boxes, available under 37 CFR § 1.97:

1. ☐ 37 CFR §1.97(b) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed according to one of the following: (i) within 3 months of the filing date of this application (other than a CPA); (ii) within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; (iii) before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or (iv) before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

OR

2. ☒ 37 CFR §1.97(c) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of any of a final action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and it is accompanied by the statement or fee as identified below:

2.1 ☒ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.

OR

2.2 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

OR

2.3 ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

**** Provisional Fee Authorization.** If Box 2.1 or Box 2.2 is marked above and a final action under § 1.113 has in fact been mailed before the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p) as if Box 2.3 had been marked.

OR

3. ☐ 37 CFR §1.97(d) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed on or before payment of the issue fee and it is accompanied by the statement and fee as identified below:

3.1.1 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.

OR

3.1.2 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

AND

3.2 ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

- ✓ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure

statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

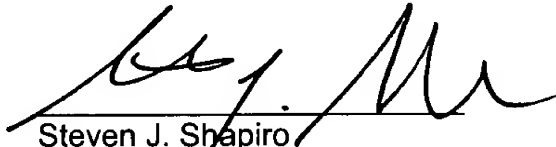
A list of the patent(s) and/or publication(s) is set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Modified).

A copy of each of the items on PTO-1449 (Modified) is supplied herewith.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. **16-1885**.

A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed for use in charging the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven J. Shapiro
Reg. No. 35,677
Attorney of Record
Telephone (203) 924-3880

PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and
Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive
P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000

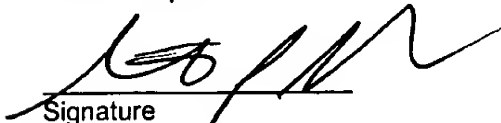
Plus attachments: Form PTO-1449 (Modified)
One copy of each of the references

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On June 3, 2003
Date of Deposit


Signature

Steven J. Shapiro
Name of Registered Rep.

June 3, 2003
Date



FORM PTO-1449 (Modified)		Atty. Docket Number E-977		Serial No. 09/474,326			
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Applicant Thomas J. Foth et al.					
		Filing Date December 29, 1999		Group 3621			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,509,070	4/1996	J. Schull			
	AB	5,845,281	12/1998	Benson et al.			
	AC	5,933,498	8/1999	Schneck et al.			
	AD	US6,473,740B2	10/29/02	Cockrill et al.			
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL	EP 0 798 892	10/1997	EPO			No
	AM						
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
	AN	Todd Woody: Fight for your rights" The Standard (Internet), June 7, 1999 (1999-06-07), XP002153035 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://thestandard.com/article/display/0,1151,4793,00.html 'retrieved on 2000-11-16.					
	AO	Choudhury A K et al: "Copyright Protection for Electronic Publishing Over Computer Networks" - IEEE Network, IEEE Inc. NY, US Vol. 9, No. 3, 1 may 1995 (1995-05-01) Pages 12-20, XP000505280 ISSN: 0890-8044.					
	AP	Baker: "In the money - Qpass has big hopes for small Net sales" Business Journal (Internet), 12 October 1998 (1998-10-12), XP002134402 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:www.amcity.com/seattle/stories/1998/10/12/story3.html 'retrieved on 2000-03-30.					
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance <u>and</u> not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

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